



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

STAFF CONTACTS

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FALL 2 PROGRAM SESSION:

October 26 – December 20, 2026

No Classes November 23 – 29, 2026

WONDERBUG DISCOVERIES (AGES 18 MONTHS - 3 YEARS WITH PARENT) (ACY)

This parent-child nature discovery program is highly sensory-based involving themed storybooks, songs, hands-on time, and outdoor time with exploratory walks through the Purdy Nature Preserve. Each week will focus on a different theme or topic in nature. A portion of each class will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so dress accordingly!

NATURE WONDERS FOR PRESCHOOLERS (AGES 3-5 YEARS) (ACY)

Expand upon your child's preschool and kindergarten readiness skills through this nature based experiential learning program. Children will be introduced to basic academic skills during their exploration of nature and the outdoors. Each week will feature a different academic element, such as numbers, shapes, colors, and letters, which will be incorporated into the nature theme of the week.

OUTRAGEOUS OUTDOORS (AGES 3-5 YEARS) (ACY)

This exciting class gives your child a chance to learn all about the beauty and wonder of the natural world through hands-on activities, games, stories and crafts related to the nature theme of the week, as well as time outdoors exploring nature. Have your child dressed for the weather as much of this class will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Class Name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Wonderbug Discoveries	ACY	18 months-3 years	W	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	\$49	\$75
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	T	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$60	\$83
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	W	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	\$60	\$83
Nature Wonders for Preschoolers	ACY	3-5 years	TH	9:30 AM	11:30 AM	\$72	\$94

HIKES, WORKSHOPS, AND OUTDOOR EXPLORER'S CLUB

OUTDOOR EXPLORERS CLUB (AGES 5-10 YEARS) (ACY)

Let the Environmental Education team at the Apple Creek YMCA turn your off-day from school into a full day of exploration and activities related to the outdoors. Join us for hikes, playing in the woods, creative free-time, and more! Pack a nut-free lunch, snacks and appropriate clothing for indoors and outdoors in a backpack and join us for a fun-filled day! Additional information will be sent by email after registration has been completed.

LIVE ANIMAL CARE (AGES 6-12 YEARS) (ACY)

Drop your child off on the second Saturday of each month in the Nature Study Classroom to learn how we care for our classroom animals, including snakes, lizards, turtles, and frogs. Help feed the animals, clean their tanks, and make sure they are living healthy lives. We will occasionally bring our lessons outdoors, so please dress accordingly.

NATURE BONDING (AGES 11-16 YEARS W/PARENT) (ACY)

On the Second Wednesday of each month, you and your child can join the Apple Creek Naturalists and explore the preserve, learn about wild edible plants, aromatherapy, nature-based artwork and much more! Each month is a new experience, as activities will change with each session!

NATURE BASICS FOR CURIOUS ADULTS (AGES 18 YEARS +) (ACY)

Ever wondered exactly what your kids get to do in Environmental Ed classes? Ever wanted to recapture the feeling of going on a field trip in grade school? Here's your chance! Come join the Apple Creek Naturalists and learn about nature through crafts, outdoor experiences, and meeting the center's ambassador animals! Each workshop will be a different program based on one of our Nature Kids Programs or field trips.

NATURE IN ME: MINDFULNESS HIKE & RESTORATION (AGES 18 YEARS +) (ACY)

Join us on a hike through the Purdy Nature Preserve focused on calming your busy mind through movement, mindfulness, and meditation. Following the hike, enjoy a restorative and therapeutic session of stretching and relaxation either in the Y or outside under the open-air pavilion.

Class Name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Outdoor Explorer's Club – October 16	ACY	5-10 years	F	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorer's Club – October 30	ACY	5-10 years	F	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorer's Club – November 6	ACY	5-10 years	F	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorer's Club – November 27	ACY	5-10 years	F	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorer's Club – December 23	ACY	5-10 years	W	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorer's Club – December 28	ACY	5-10 years	M	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorer's Club – December 29	ACY	5-10 years	T	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorer's Club – December 30	ACY	5-10 years	W	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Live Animal Care – November 14	ACY	6-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Nature Bonding – November 11	ACY	11-16 years w/parent	W	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature Bonding – December 9	ACY	11-16 years w/parent	W	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature Basics for Curious Adults – November 21	ACY	18 years +	SAT	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$10	\$15

Nature Basics for Curious Adults – December 19	ACY	18 years +	SAT	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature in Me – November 9	ACY	18 years +	F	9:15 AM	11:00 AM	\$5	\$10
Nature In Me – December 14	ACY	18 years +	M	9:15 AM	11:00 AM	\$5	\$10

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The Apple Creek YMCA and Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve are accepting field trip registrations for the 2026-27 school year for grades K-12. Local schools may book trips on several different topics related to plants, animals, forestry, pond study, life cycles and much more. Programs will be tailored to each school's curriculum needs and will be led by YMCA naturalists. Call 920.841.8166 or email the Environmental Education Director at rimp@ymcafoxcities.org for a complete list of programming options.

LEADERS FOR GIRL, BOY AND CUB SCOUTS OR OTHER YOUTH GROUPS

Scouts of all ages may schedule time with a YMCA Naturalist to fulfill requirements for outdoor related try-its, achievements or badges they are working on. Cost for a 60–90-minute session is \$3.50/child with a minimum of 10 youth attending. There is no fee for leaders and adult chaperones to attend. Programs can be held at your normal meeting location or at the Apple Creek YMCA.

BECOME A NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed for many outdoor related tasks such as mowing, tree trimming, trail maintenance and more. Call 920.841.8166 for more details on how you can help shape the Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve.